

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 L-03 SS-15 PM-04 H-01

CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 DODE-00 OMB-01 TRSE-00

IGA-02 AID-05 SP-02 ACDA-07 /070 W

-----123804 091100Z /13

R 081514Z JUL 77

FM AMEMBASSY GABORONE

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 0191

INFO AMEMBASSY BRUSSELS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

C O N F I D E N T I A L GABORONE 1514

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, BC, UK

SUBJECT: POSSIBLE UK MILITARY ASSISTANCE TO BOTSWANA

REF: (A) STATE 154184, (B) LONDON 8963, (C) STATE 127960

1. IN CONVERSATION JULY 7, SECRETARY TO CABINET STEENKAMP TOLD DCM THAT PRESIDENT KHAMA DID NOT DISCUSS MILITARY ASSISTANCE WITH BRITISH DURING HIS VISIT TO U.K. STEENKAMP ADDED, HOWEVER, THAT HE (STEENKAMP) "DID DISCUSS IT WITH THE ODD BRIT", INCLUDING A REPRESENTATIVE OF STERLING ARMS CO., WHOM HE CHIDED FOR THE LONG DELAY IN SHIPMENT OF LIVE AMMO FOR 400 ARMALITE RIFLES PREVIOUSLY ORDERED. HE REMINDED DCM THAT (AS WE ALREADY REPORTED) UK WAS OFFERING MILITARY TRAINING AND LIMITED COMMERCIAL SALES TO BOTSWANA.

2. STEENKAMP MENTIONED THAT PRESIDENTIAL PARTY HAD VISITED FABRIQUE NATIONAL WHILE IN BELGIUM. HE SAID THAT FN NOT YET MASS PRODUCING THE 5.56 MM CALIBER DESIRED BY GOB, ALTHOUGH PILOT MODELS WERE AVAILABLE FOR INSPECTION. ANOTHER INHIBITING FACTOR IS COST OF BELGIAN MODELS, WHICH WILL RUN AROUND 500 DOLLARS PER COPY.

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3. STEENKAMP ALSO SAID GOB HAD PURCHASED THREE "DEFENDER" (ISLANDER) AIRCRAFT, EACH CAPABLE OF SHORT TAKEOFFS AND LANDINGS AND CARRYING ABOUT ELEVEN PERSONS.

4. COMMENT: PURCHASE OF AIRCRAFT AND VISIT TO FN FACTORY ARE FUTHER EVIDENCE OF GOB DETERMINATION, IN VIEW OF POLITICAL AND SECURITY-RELATED PRESSURES, TO

PROCEED WITH MILITARY PROCUREMENT DESPITE ATTENDANT
BUDGETARY SACRIFICES. END COMMENT.
NORLAND

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NNN

Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 08-Jul-1977 12:00:00 am
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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